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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON AT SEATTLE

KENNETH FLEMING and JOHN DOE,

Plaintiffs.

VS.

THE CORPORATION OF THE PRESIDENT

OF THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF ) No. 4-2338 RSM

LATTER-DAY SAINTS, a Utah corporation sole, a/k/a "MORMON

CHURCH"; LDS SOCIAL SERVICES a/k/a LDS FAMILY SERVICES, a Utah

corporation,

Defendants.

DEPOSITION OF PHILIP J. COLEMAN

September 15, 2005

Seattle, Washington

Byers & Anderson, Inc.

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25th Anniversary 1980-2005

Philip J. Coleman September 15, 2005

EXHIBIT 4

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1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25	that your predecessor served?  A Well, I started in 1973, and this was 1970, so no less than three. How much less, I don't remember.  Q Can you give me a general sense of the kind of communication or the types of communications that go on between a departing bishop and an arriving bishop regarding the transfer of responsibilities within the ward?  MR. FREY: Could I ask for a clarification?  Are you talking about then or now?  MR. KOSNOFF: He can only testify as to his experience.  Q (By Mr. Kosnoff) If it changed in your later bishopric, perhaps you can point that out, but I'm trying to get a sense of is there a practice, is there a custom. How are the reigns transferred?  MR. FREY: I am going to object to the form of the question. It's indeterminate in time, but go ahead and answer.  THE WITNESS: Is there a protocol? I don't remember.  I can remember what might have taken place.  There would be a transfer of records, keys, the current mechanics in progress as far as the	Did you have, for example, a discussion about how the Boy Scout program was operating and what changes need to be made there?  A I do not recall any.  Q Are there any protocols or practices that you recall involving communicating confidential, sensitive issues involving members of the ward?  A I don't remember a protocol for that.  Q Do you have any recollection of Bishop Borland telling you any sensitive or confidential information concerning any members of the ward?  A I do not.  Q When you became bishop, at that point had you been aware of there being any complaints of sexual misconduct with boys by Jack LoHolt?  A No.  Q Had you heard any rumors to that effect?  A No.  To your understanding what kind of a job was Jack LoHolt doing within the ward Scout program when you became bishop?  A young men's secretary position is often given to a person who is who needs something to do.  And in that instance Jack LoHolt needed something to do?
15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24	organization is concerned, nonconfidential items of concern.  Q (By Mr. Kosnoff) Now, I understand that the responsibilities of the bishop are great and multifaceted and include both administrative responsibilities and pastoral responsibilities.  Do you recall having discussions of an administrative nature with your predecessor, Bishop Borland?  MR. FREY: I am going to object to the form of the question.  THE WITNESS: And I'm not sure I understand the question.  Q (By Mr. Kosnoff) Well, you talked about keys, records. I'm assuming you're referring to things that had to do with the administrative operations of the ward.  A Yes.  Q Did it also involve discussions regarding personnel-strike that. Individuals in callings, positions, and offices under the purview of the bishop?  A It might have.  Q Do you have any specific recollection of any of those discussions?  A I do not.	Page 45  1 A I can't infer the second from the earlier, but that was a statement of fact of the position. Q Okay. A I don't recall how well Jack was doing or why he was put in the position. Q He was already in that position when you became bishop? A I don't recall that either. Q At some point during the three years that you were bishop, did someone bring to your attention an allegation that Jack LoHolt was sexually molesting boys? A In the specific, I have to say no to sexually molesting. Q What about generally? A In the general to sexually molesting, I have to say no. Q Did you receive any information of any kind from any person that Jack LoHolt was allegedly engaging in sexually inappropriate activity? A Yes. Q From who whom did you learn that?  MR. FREY: I am going to object at this point in time. Let me tell you the basis for the objection.

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6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24	Mr. Frey's comments, you received a communication from someone while you were bishop regarding an allegation of sexual misconduct by Jack LoHolt; is that correct?  A That's correct.  Q Was the person who communicated this to you a member of the Mormon church?  A Yes.  Q Was this communication made to you in your capacity as bishop?  A I think so.  Q Okay. Did it occur at, for example, the ward building or your office?  A I don't remember that.  Q Okay. Was the person who communicated this to you, in your view, making a statement of confession or penitential contrition?  A No.  Q Under the doctrines and tenants of your faith, do you believe that you are absolutely required to keep what that person said to you confidential, and I mean that you cannot repeat it to anyone?  A No.  Q Do you know the Harrison family?  A I do.	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25	confirm, I suppose, the name of a victim, then I'm going to tell you you don't have to answer it.  THE WITNESS: To my own understanding of the question, the answer is no.  Q (By Mr. Kosnoff) In October of 2003, did you get a phone call from a woman that was asking you about what you knew about Jack LoHolt?  A I did.  Q And did you tell her that Jack's problem came to your awareness, "When some young boys came to me and told me that Jack had been molesting them"?  A I did not say that, to my knowledge.  Q Did you tell that person that after talking with those people, that you spoke with Jack LoHolt and his parents?  A This question was contingent on the prior one about boys having spoken to me, and the answer to that one is no, and therefore the answer to this one is no.  May I take a moment with these gentlemen?  Q Of course.  Have you finished your last answer?  A On that question, yes.  (Recess 10:43 to 10:47 a.m.)
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2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20	A Yes.  Q And as I recall, she was a member of the church but Mr. Harrison was not?  A That's as I recall.  Q And they had three sons who were members of the church?  A I think so.  Q Did any member of the Harrison family tell you that Jack LoHolt was sexually molesting them?  MR. FREY: If this is going to require you to breach any confidential agreement or	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25	and the witness wants to clarify the answer is maybe the best way to put it.  Q (By Mr. Kosnoff) Dr. Coleman, do you want to clarify an earlier answer?  A If I may.  With regard to an individual making me aware of something that happened between her sons and Jack LoHolt, the answer is yes, and the answer is that there was an exposure.  In my own mind, at least at the time, maybe not now, that did not constitute abuse.  That's why I gave "no" to those answers, but I wanted you to be aware of what did happen.  Q What was your understanding of what Jack LoHolt had done, allegedly?  A Exposed his private parts.  Q To whom and where?  A As I recall it  MR. FREY: I am going to again instruct the witness not to say the names of who, but he can say anything else.  THE WITNESS: As I recall, two boys, as I recall it, on an outing, which Jack frequently took them, either fishing or camping he was a bit of a replacement for an absentee father.

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2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24	Q (By Mr. Kosnoff) In fact, Jack had become kind of a surrogate father to the boys in absence of their natural father?  A That's calling for a judgment. Q Is that your understanding? A I think what I said earlier would be appropriate. Q But it was your understanding that Jack had been spending a lot of time with these boys? A I think so. Q When you received this information, were you concerned? A Indeed. Q Were you very concerned? A Indeed. Q Okay. Being very concerned, what did you do? A Spoke to Jack. Q Where did that conversation take place? A In the bishop's office. Q Did you call him in? A I did. Q What was said by Jack to you? A I don't recall the details, but he denied it. Q Jack denied that he'd engaged in the conduct? A He did. Q Did Jack acknowledge, however	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25	that you had with Jack.  A That would fall under the auspices of a privileged communication, yes, I think so.  Q After you talked with Jack, did you talk with his parents?  A I did.  Q Where did that take place?  A Bishop's office.  Q Okay. What was said by the parents to you strike that.  Did you tell the parents the information that you had regarding Jack's behavior?  A I did.  Q What was their reaction?  A Disbelief.  Q Okay. After that exchange, what did you do with this information?  A We released Jack from his church callings, and I notified, as I recall, at least some key individuals who would need to know about it.  Q And those were priesthood leaders?  A My counselors. I remember specifically I can't honestly say I remember talking to the young men's president, but that might have been usual, and perhaps to the Scout master, but I don't remember			
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20	Page 55  MR. FREY: For the record, I want to make this clear because this is going to come up again.  In those conversations where you're acting with your bishop's hat on and you're speaking to one of your people and it involves what could be classified as a transgression within the church, you do have the right not to disclose that information.  On the other hand, I want you to be able to answer Counsel's question as best you can because he has a right to find out what we knew or didn't know or should have known.  Q (By Mr. Kosnoff) I would add whether or not a privilege really applies really depends on the circumstances and the conduct and the intent of the parties.  A I think in this context it would.  Q The question of whether or not under the doctrine and beliefs of the Mormon church and the circumstances of this communication between you and Jack, is it your belief that this was a privileged communication.	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	that.  Q Richard Pettit was one of your counselors, correct?  A He was.  Q And, in fact, you did tell Richard Pettit?  A That's my recollection.  Q What else did you do?  A If I can digress for a moment, my role as a bishop was to serve everyone, including, if possible, Jack.  During an era at that time where at least personally and I think rather generally there was little information about the recurrent nature or problem of a sexual offender and indeed little about how to deal with it in the social aspect, I continued to work privately with Jack to try to help him to be reconciled to Christ.  Q Through your work with Jack to be reconciled with Christ, did you come away with a feeling that the problem had been adequately addressed?  MR. FREY: In answering that question—  THE WITNESS: I can't answer that. I			

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can't say.

victims?

Q (By Mr. Kosnoff) Did you do anything to investigate

25 A I want to say yes, but I frankly don't remember the

whether there may have been other incidents and other

belief that this was a privileged communication

The information came to me other than Jack.

Q I understand that, but I'm referring to the meeting

between bishop and member?

A May I make a statement?

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